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January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

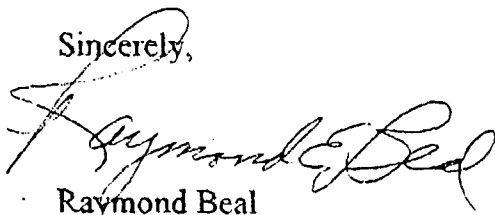
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

After three long years of court battles Microsoft and the Department of Justice have reached a settlement regarding the anti-trust suit. I believe that the settlement will be beneficial to both the IT industry and the consumers alike. It is necessary that all those who are involved in this suit put aside their differences and work to put this issue behind them. I would like to go on record as being a staunch supporter of the settlement.

This settlement went further than what Microsoft would have liked, but they believe that settling the case now is the right thing to do to help the industry and the economy move forward. The agreement is fair and reasonable, and was arrived at after extensive negotiations. The industry will be more competitive since Microsoft has agreed not to retaliate against competitors who produce, promote and ship software that competes with Microsoft's.

I am satisfied with this settlement since it is fair and reasonable to all parties involved.

Sincerely,



Raymond Beal